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Country cooperation frameworks and related matters

Extension of the first country cooperation framework for Syria

Note by the Administrator

Period of extension: 1 January 2001 to 31 December 2001

1. The first country cooperation framework (CCF) for Syria was approved by the Executive Board at its third regular session 1997 for four years, from 1 January 1997 to 31 December 2000.

2. The country review was held from 2 July to 4 August 2000. The first recommendation of the country review called for an extension of the CCF for an additional year, from 1 January 2001 to 31 December 2001. This recommendation was based on the need to harmonize the programming cycles of United Nations agencies and on the fact that the objectives of the CCF cannot be fully attained within the current time frame, though the resources available remain sufficient. The reasons for not realizing all objectives within the current time frame are: (a) delays in the start of projects; (b) difficulties implementing national execution modalities; and (c) insufficient emphasis of objectives, especially with regard to economic governance.

3. The extension of the CCF through December 2001 should allow enough time to enable current programmes and projects to attain their respective goals. It will also enable projects designed to contribute to development in the water and energy sectors to realize strategic goals more fully while allowing the new government administration, as well, to pursue programmes in the field of economic governance. Expected outputs by December 2001 include: (a) studies on the quality of water and measures to improve it; (b) preparatory studies on the overall strategy for water resources; (c) measures to promote greater efficiency in energy consumption at the Banias Power Plant; (d) greater capacity in energy audits; (e) studies and policies for economic reform; (f) preparatory studies for a strategic development vision for Syria; (g) policies to combat unemployment; (h) computerization of the external-debt management system at the central bank; (i) greater capacity for macroeconomic

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management in a mixed economy in transition; and (j) confirmation of government priorities in the environment sector.

4. The Administrator wishes to inform the Executive Board that he has approved the extension of the first CCF for Syria for a period of one year, from 1 January to 31 December 2001.